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Montana Renewable Resource Development Program

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The Renewable Resource Development Loan and Grant Program was established by the Montana Legislature in 1975 to provide financial assistance for conserving, protecting, and developing Montana's renewable resources. The Water Development Bureau of the Water Resources Division of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is in charge of the program.

Grant funds are supplied by .625 percent of the revenues of the coal severance tax. In addition, the state is authorized to sell up to $5 million in general obligation bonds to fund the loans made by the program.

What Types of Projects Are Eligible?

Eligible projects include construction, feasibility, and demonstration projects which conserve, protect, manage, or develop Montana's renewable resources.

State law requires that the loan and grant funds be awarded so that projects within the categories of Agricultural Land Improvement, Timber Stand Improvement, Water Reservation Development, and Water Development receive funding. Other projects considered appropriate by the department are also eligible.

How Do I Apply?

Request an application form for the Renewable Resource Development Program from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Specify if you are interested in a grant, a loan, or grant and loan combination. **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT IS MAY 15 OF EVERY EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR.**

The department will review and evaluate all applications for their technical, financial, and environmental feasibility. The department then ranks the applications and makes priority funding recommendations to the governor, who makes recommendations to the Montana Legislature.

The legislature makes the final funding decision on all proposed projects. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will notify successful applicants and will prepare contracts for the administration and disbursal of funds over a two-year period.

TO REQUEST APPLICATIONS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE OR CALL:

Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Development Bureau
Lee Metcalf Building
1520 East Sixth Street
Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 444-6668

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Examples of eligible projects within the program categories include:

Agricultural Land Improvement Projects

- Conservation Tillage Demonstration
- Rangeland Management
- Riparian Grazing Study
- Agricultural Land Exchange Program

Timber Stand Improvement Projects

- Tree Thinning and Removal Demonstration
- Tree Planting Project

Water Reservation Development Projects

- Reservation Application Feasibility
- Existing Water Reservation Implementation

Other Projects

- Solid Waste Management Project
- Landfill Reclamation
- Cross Country Ski Trail Development
- Solid Waste Resource Recovery Facility

Water Development Projects

The funds allocated to water development projects are combined with other revenues the legislature makes available specifically for water development projects, and become a part of the revenue for another funding program administered by the Water Development Bureau, the Water Development Loan and Grant Program.

Who is Eligible for Grants and Loans?

All public entities such as cities, towns, counties, conservation districts, state agencies, universities, and other divisions of state and local governments are eligible for grants under the Renewable Resource Development Program.

All public entities with statutory borrowing authority are eligible to receive loans or grant and loan combinations.

What are the Grant and Loan Limits?

No grant or loan may exceed $100,000, and grant and loan combinations cannot exceed $200,000.

The interest rate for loans is the rate at which the state bond is sold. In 1985 that rate was 7.23 percent. The loan repayment period cannot exceed 30 years, but is customarily 20 years, the term of the state bond.

All projects must be approved by the Montana Legislature.

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and Conservation
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